



Social Work Licensing

Catholic University– Social Work Class
December 13, 2022

SOCIAL WORK

BOARD MEMBERS

5 Mayoral appointees

4 DC licensed social workers and 1 consumer member

- Velva Spriggs, LISW, Chairperson
- Wanda Wheeler, LICSW
- Marjan Shallal, LGSW
- LSWA- Vacant
- Selerya Moore, Consumer Member

CHARGE OF REGULATORY BOARDS

Define the Profession

- Establish Scope of Practice and/or Title Protection

- Set Standards

- Determine Continuing Competence

License Professionals

- Initial Licensure/Renewal

Enforce Laws and Rules

- Investigate and Resolve Complaints

- Conduct Competence and Capacity Proceedings

Inform and Remain Accountable to the Public

- Distribute Public Information

- Support Licensees



SOCIAL WORK LICENSURE

NOT A HIERARCHY

- **LSWA**-Bachelor's level
- **LGSW**- Generalist (MSW entry level)
- **LISW**- Non-clinical work
- **LICSW**- Clinical work

PRACTICE DEFINITION OF SOCIAL WORK

Rendering or offering to render professional services to individuals, families, or groups of individuals that involve the diagnosis and treatment of psychosocial problems according to social work theory and methods.

Depending upon the level at which an individual social worker is licensed under this chapter, the professional services may include, but shall not be limited to, the formulation of psychosocial evaluation and assessment, counseling, psychotherapy, referral, advocacy, mediation, consultation, research, administration, education, and community organization.

PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIP

- **Professional groups** - focus is on the development and promotion of the profession (**National Association of Social Workers**)
- **Academia** - focus is on the educational theory and practice methods (**Council on Social Work Education**)
- **Regulators** - focus is on public protection and the minimum skills needed to practice competently and safely to protect the public (**District of Columbia Board of Social Work**)

BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK LICENSURE CENSUS

- Licensed Graduate Social Workers (1,402 licensees*)
- Licensed Independent Clinical Social Workers (4519 licensees*)
- Licensed Independent Social Workers (39 licensees*)
- Licensed Social Work Associates (44 licensees*)

*as of December 2023



LICENSURE CRITERIA

1. Submission of a complete Online application (***all required documents and fees***) to the board
2. Successful completion of a BSW/MSW program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)
3. Passing score on the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) examination
4. Criminal background check clearance from the Board
5. Application approval by the Board and issuance of license



INFORMATION FOR ANTICIPATED GRADUATES

- Students who have a letter from the Dean of the program documenting an impending graduation, within **90 days**, may apply to sit for the examination
- Applications submitted without a letter or 91 or more days before graduation will not be processed
- Follow application instructions
- Upon receipt of the official transcript, if qualified, the license will be issued



THREE PHASES OF THE APPLICATION PROCESS

- **Phase 1 – Processing:** Applicant submits application online through the new online application portal by DC Health. The application once submitted online is forwarded to the Health Licensing Specialist (HLS) for analysis. The successful completion of phase 1 is dependent upon the applicant submitting all required documents . Applications pending for more than 120 days, with appropriate communication to the applicant throughout the 30-60-90 day period to notify them of deficiencies, will be closed.



THREE PHASES OF THE APPLICATION PROCESS

- **Phase 2 – Analysis:** The board's staff conducts a more detailed review of all the documents provided by the applicant, ensuring that they have met the minimum requirements for licensure under the law. Additionally, the HLS may request further information from the applicant before forwarding the application to the Board for a final decision.



THREE PHASES OF THE APPLICATION PROCESS

- **Phase 3 – Board Decision:** The Board will review applications full detail. If the application is found to be in accordance with the statutes and regulations for licensure approval, a license document will be mailed to within one week of approval.
- If the Board determines that an application does not completely comply with any of the statutory or regulatory criteria for licensure, the Board may ask for additional information, or ask that an interview be scheduled to answer further questions relevant to determining licensure approval. If the Board finds that a licensee does not meet the requirements for licensure, or that there is a legal or practice issue that bears upon fitness for licensure, they may formally request that an application is withdrawn or deny the application.

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK



- Fingerprints are required during initial licensure and every renewal
- Local and federal criminal data bases are queried
- All arrests, charges, and convictions are reported, even those for “good cause” and events that occurred long ago
- Eliminate delays with you application or sanctions from the Board by reporting any arrest, charge, or conviction on your application

SOCIAL WORK EXAMINATION (ASWB)

- Owned by the Association of Social Work Boards
 - Administered through computers
 - Created based on a practice analysis
 - Questions are written by social workers
 - 180 (20 are pretest items) multiple choice questions
 - Administers five categories of social work licensure examination:
 - Associate
 - Bachelors
 - Masters
 - Advance Generalist
 - Clinical
- \$230.00 (A separate fee from the licensure application paid directly to ASWB,
- Retake policies vary by jurisdiction
 - Check the regulations



(<https://dchealth.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/doh/publication/attachments/Chapter%2070%20Social%20Work%207-5-2019.pdf>)

SOCIAL WORK LICENSURE FEES

- Initial License: \$230.00
- Renewal: \$145.00
- Examination: \$230 (*Paid directly to ASWB*)
- Criminal Background Check: \$50.00 - \$90.00 (*varies depending on location*)

SANCTIONABLE ACTIONS

- Unlicensed practice
- Supervising unlicensed practice
- Failure to comply with CE requirements
- Falsifying CE's
- Misrepresentation
 - **Unless authorized to practice social work** a person shall not use the words or terms "social worker," "clinical social worker," "graduate social worker," "independent social worker," "licensed independent social worker," "L.I.S.W.", "licensed independent clinical social worker," "L.I.C.S.W.", or any similar title or description of services with the intent to represent that the person practices social work.
- Supplying false statements to the Board



BOARD STAFF

- **LaTrice Herndon**
- Executive Director
- Email: latrice.herndon@dc.gov
- Tel: 202-559-7283
- Board Email: dcbosw@dc.gov
- **Mavis Azariah-Armattoe**
- Health Licensing Specialist
- Email: mavis.azariah@dc.gov
- Tel: 202-442-4782

KEY LINKS

- DC Health Online Application: <https://doh.force.com/dchealthrenewals/s/portal-page>
- District of Columbia Board of Social Work: <https://dchealth.dc.gov/node/161602>
- National Association of Social Workers:
<https://www.socialworkers.org/newhomepage>
- Association of Social Work Boards: <https://www.aswb.org/>
- Clinical Social Work Association: <https://www.clinicalsocialworkassociation.org/>



THANK YOU

Visit us online:

dchealth.dc.gov

Follow us on social media:



@_DCHealth



DC Health



dchealth